

## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

## INFORMATION REPORT

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25X1

Ministry of Health

1. The organization of the health services in Bulgaria was initiated immediately after World War II, and since that time health services have been executed efficiently and have shown good progress. In 1949, a Bulgarian delegation of the Ministry of Health, seven department heads of the Ministry, and a professor of hygiene at the Plovdiv medical academy visited Moscow for two months to study the organization of Soviet health services. The delegation attended daily lectures by the department heads of the Soviet Ministry of Health, stayed three days at the 2,500-bed Botkin Hospital in Moscow, visited the Stalin Institute for sanitary research and sera production, inspected the blood banks at the Kirov Institute, went through several foodstuff factories, and visited the town of Zvinigorod, where the members of the delegation studied the organization of the district and municipal health services. When the delegation returned to Sofia, organization of Bulgarian health services was modified to coincide with the Soviet pattern.
2. The Ministry of Public Health and Social Welfare, headed by Dr. Petŭr Kolarov, is located at No. 5 Lenin Square, Sofia. The Minister has three deputies, each responsible for one of the three principal departments of the ministry:
  - a. Department of sanitation (hygiene) and epidemiology;
  - b. Department of hospitals; and
  - c. Department of social insurance.
3. Subordinate to the three deputy ministers are three directors, one in each of the above departments, who serve occasionally as acting Deputy Ministers. The actual direction and control over each department's work is exercised by the department chief, who is responsible to his director.

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-2-



4. The department of sanitation and epidemiology has sub-departments of epidemiology, communal sanitation, hygiene in schools, food hygiene, and hygiene in factories. The department's staff consists of a chief, five physicians as sub-department chiefs, six physicians as inspectors, one statistician, one draftsman, and two typists. Its bacteriological laboratory has five physicians as section chiefs and two to three laboratory assistants to each section. Its joint chemical laboratory has five chemists, one veterinarian, one zoologist, and 15 to 20 laboratory assistants.
5. In addition to the three ministerial departments, there are several other groups in the Ministry which are controlled directly by the Minister's office and which are responsible directly to the Minister:
  - a. The Supreme Medical Council (Vissh Meditsinski Suvet), which holds regular meetings at least four times annually and which may be convened at any time of emergency. The permanent membership consists of the three directors, the three department chiefs, the two laboratory chiefs, 11 outstanding physicians selected from the leading medical institutions of the country, and the chief physician of the Ministry of Defense and the Ministry of Transport;
  - b. The National Sanitary Inspectorate (Dürzhavna Sanitarna Inspektsiya), which deals with the scientific aspects of communal and industrial hygiene and furnishes advice for and control of the chemical composition of pharmaceuticals. The Inspectorate, established in 1952, was modeled on a similar department of the USSR which is responsible directly to the Council of Ministers, rather than to the Ministry of Health. The staff of the Inspectorate, five physicians and one pharmacist, is directed by a physician who is responsible to one of the Deputy Ministers;
  - c. Department for professional training, which is jointly directed by the three department chiefs. This group supervises medical academies, nurses' schools, and the training of medical aides;
  - d. General Ministerial Inspectorate, with six members, whose task is to eliminate or reduce inter-departmental or personal differences which threaten to disturb the smooth operation of the Ministry and its district offices;
  - e. Legal and coordination department, which furnishes liaison with other ministries, prepares contracts, and drafts bills. It is headed by a jurist who has the rank of adviser to the Minister;
  - f. Supply department, which stores and distributes hospital equipment and medical apparatus to the medical institutions throughout the country;
  - g. Joint administrative department, serving the entire Ministry;
  - h. Central archives; and
  - i. Party secretary, who is also head of the National Sanitary Inspectorate.
6. The staff of the Ministry of Health totalled 252 officials in 1951 and increased somewhat during the following two years. In 1953, personnel was reduced by 10 percent, and an additional cut of 10 percent is scheduled for 1954. Since so many staff members are middle-aged and old physicians, the percentage of Party members in the Ministry of Health is probably less than 50 percent, which is considerably lower than in any other ministry.

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-3-

Regional Health Offices

7. Paralleling the organization of the Ministry of Health is the organization of the regional health offices. There are a total of 13 health offices: One for the city of Sofia, and one each for the following regions located at Vidin, Plevna, Ruse, Kolarovgrad (formerly Shumen), Stalin (formerly Varna), Vratsa, Plovdiv, Stara Zagora, Sofia, Blagoevgrad (formerly Gorna Dzhumaya), Petrich, and Burgas.
8. The district health officers, of which there are 103 in Bulgaria, are subordinate to the regional health office. Further, each town has a municipal health officer, whose organization is parallel to that of the district office and which in turn controls the rural health office.
9. Particularly good progress has been made in the fields of preventive medicine, communal hygiene, and industrial hygiene. There have been no epidemics on any significant scale during the past few years. Malaria has almost completely disappeared, except for isolated cases which are dealt with both promptly and efficiently. Inoculations and vaccinations against the following diseases are given free of charge to the population:
  - a. Smallpox: To new-born babies and repeated at the age of 5, 10, 15, and 21;
  - b. Diphtheria: Two or three times per year up to the age of 13;
  - c. Typhoid and paratyphoid (both A and B): Almost everyone has received at least one inoculation; This is obligatory and will be given once a year;
  - d. Cholera: For military personnel and for inhabitants of the border districts;
  - e. Tetanus: To military personnel and to workers employed in installations where the danger of tetanus infection may exist;
  - f. Spotted fever: To medical personnel once a year;
  - g. Dysentery: Only in case of epidemics;
  - h. Malaria: Only in case of epidemics; and
  - i. Tuberculosis: Approximately one-third of the population has already been inoculated with BCZ; everyone will receive one inoculation.
10. A reserve stock of equipment for emergency use is kept in a depot at No. 5-7 Rositsa Street, Sofia. This equipment cannot be used to make up shortages in normal hospital accommodation. The reserve stock includes 300 hospital beds (complete with sheets and blankets), hospital tents (from 2- to 32-bed capacities), and bacteriological installations.
11. The principal problem of Bulgarian health authorities is the high incidence of tuberculosis. Apart from the BCZ inoculation being given to everyone, health authorities make frequent medical checks at schools, factories, and military installations. Anyone with the slightest indications of tuberculosis is X-rayed and given immediate treatment. However, the current hospital accommodations and facilities for treatment are not satisfactory, and clinics have been opened in larger towns to give pneumothorax treatment and to perform minor operations, but their principal purpose is to keep patients isolated until they can be admitted to hospitals. The

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-4-

clinics have not been able to accept all tubercular patients, which forces many of them to remain at home until space becomes available in a clinic. The following sanitariums are known:

- a. Iskrets (N 42-59, E 23-14), 250 to 300 beds;
- b. Vladaya (N 42-53, E 23-12), 150 beds;
- c. Troyan (N 42-53, E 24-43), 250 beds;
- d. Stalin (Varna), for children;
- e. Tryavna (N 42-52, E 25-30);
- f. Lŭzhene (N 42-01, E 24-00), reserved for teachers; and
- g. Sofia (Dimitŭr Nestorov Street), 150 beds.

#### Sofia Health Office

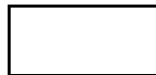
12. The Sofia municipal health office (Sofiyski Gradski Zdraven Otdel) has the same organizational structure and rank as a regional health office. The central office has six branch offices in the six precincts (rayons) where the actual work is carried out. The organization of the municipal health office is as follows:
  - a. Director of the municipal health services and chief physician;
  - b. Department for hygiene (sanitary inspectorate);
  - c. Department of hospitals and polyclinics;
  - d. Department for maternity care;
  - e. Department for tuberculosis and venereal diseases;
  - f. Department of social insurance; and
  - g. Administration.
13. The department for hygiene is organized as follows:
  - a. Five physicians: One epidemiologist and one each in charge of communal hygiene, schools, factories, and foodstuffs;
  - b. Two laboratories: One bacteriological with three physicians and six assistants, and one chemical with five chemists and six assistants;
  - c. Disinfection station, located at No. 21 Kiril i Metodi Street: One physician, one assistant, and 21 workers; and
  - d. Hygiene information: Two physicians. The 250-bed hospital at No. 5 Dimitŭr Nestorov Street, the only hospital in Sofia for infectious diseases, is controlled by this department.

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-5-



14. The department of hospitals controls the following hospitals in Sofia:

- a. Central Municipal Hospital, located in a 4-story building on Patriarkh Eftimi Street in the first rayon. The building was completed in 1954 and holds 250 beds. Adjacent to it is a separate 80-bed hospital for tuberculosis, cancer research, and children's diseases;
  - b. A 100-bed hospital near the railroad station in the second rayon. It has surgical, internal, and gynecological departments;
  - c. A 150-bed hospital on Stamboliyski Street in the third rayon;
  - d. The former Red Cross Hospital, with 350 beds, on Tottleben Boulevard. It has all departments, except tuberculosis, infectious diseases, and venereal diseases. Attached to the hospital is the municipal first-aid station; and
  - e. A 400-bed hospital on Chumerna Street in the fifth rayon. It has all departments except infectious diseases. Specialization and refresher courses for physicians are held here;
  - f. The 2,000-bed hospital of the Sofia Medical Academy.
15. The department for maternity care controls these hospitals:
- a. A 250- to 200-bed ward at the University clinic;
  - b. The 200-bed municipal maternity hospital on Todor Peshev Street;
  - c. An 80-bed hospital on Samuil Street;
  - d. An 80-bed hospital on Oborishte Street;
  - e. A 220-bed children's hospital on Dimitŭr Nestorov Street;
  - f. A 120-bed children's hospital on Asparukh Street; and
  - g. An 80-bed children's hospital on Aprilov Street.

16. The department for tuberculosis and venereal diseases controls these hospitals:

- a. A 150-bed tuberculosis hospital on Dimitŭr Nestorov Street;
- b. The tuberculosis wards of the Municipal Hospital in the first rayon and of the University clinic; and
- c. The venereal diseases wards at the University clinic and on Chumerna Street.

Personalities of the Ministry of Health

17. Angelov (fnu) is a dental surgeon employed by the department of hospitals. From 1952 to 1953 he was secretary of the Party organization in the Ministry.
18. Cholakov (fnu) is head of the combined legal and coordinating department. He holds the rank of adviser to the Minister.
19. Professor Gelobov (fnu) is a Deputy Minister in charge of polyclinics and hospitals.

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25X1

-6-

25X1

20. Dr. Veselin Denchev is head of the National Sanitary Inspectorate and secretary of the Party organization in the Ministry. [redacted]

21. Dr. Salvator Israel, formerly head of the department of sanitation and epicemiology, is now employed by the Sofia municipal health office.

22. Ivanov (fnu) is head of the department of social insurance.

25X1

23. Professor Ivan Ivanov was a member of the medical delegation of the Ministry which studied the Soviet health service in Moscow in 1949. [redacted]

24. Dochankov (fnu) was a member of the medical delegation to Moscow in 1949. He was released in 1951 from the position of head of medical cadres in the Ministry and now manages a health resort.

25X1

25. Dr. Kozlovski (fnu) was chief physician of the Ministry of Transport in 1951-1952.

26. Manolov (fnu) was a member of the medical delegation to Moscow in 1949. He is now head of the sub-department of hygiene propaganda.

25X1

27. Konstantin Kusitasev is head of the Ministry's chemical laboratory.

28. Mitov (fnu) is a Deputy Minister in charge of social insurance.

29. Dr. Mitrov (fnu) is head of the medical cadres department.

30. Netkov (fnu) was a member of the medical delegation to Moscow in 1949. He lost his position as head of the polyclinics sub-department in the Ministry in 1951 and is now employed by the Sofia municipal health office.

31. Nikolchev (fnu) was a member of the medical delegation to Moscow in 1949. He lost his position as head of the pharmaceuticals department in the Ministry in 1951 and is now working in a pharmaceutical laboratory.

32. Khristo Petkov is director of the department of polyclinics and hospitals in the Ministry.

33. Andrey Popov is head of the Ministry's bacteriological laboratory.

34. Dr. Lyuben Stoyanov is a deputy minister in charge of sanitation and epidemiology.

35. Todorov (fnu) is director of the department of sanitation and epidemiology.

36. Zakhariev (fnu) was a member of the medical delegation to Moscow in 1949. He lost his position as head of the department of hospitals in the Ministry in 1951 and is now an assistant professor at the Plovdiv medical academy.

37. Zonov (fnu), a specialist in children's diseases, was a member of the medical delegation to Moscow in 1949. He was released from a high position in the Ministry in 1951, then worked at the Sofia University Clinic, and is now back at the Ministry.

25X1

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